

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13, 14, and 16-22 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, and 21 have been amended as shown on pages 2-7 of the Reply. Claims 8, 20, and 22 have been cancelled.

Applicants' representative appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 9 and 17-19 are allowed, and that claims 2, 4, 7, 8, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, independent claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 20 (which was rejected only under 35 U.S.C. §112 and which recites similar subject matter to claim 22), and claim 11 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 22.

Applicants' representative also thanks Examiner Janakiraman for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on March 5, 2009. During the interview, the Examiner recommended minor amendments to address various formalities, and otherwise indicated that the amendments appear to place the claims in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments herein and the Examiner's comments, it is believed that the present amended claim set is in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments is therefore respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 10 and 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 10 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 has been amended herein to clarify the statutory category to which the claim is directed, while claim 21 has been amended to correct the statutory category reference in that claim. Claim 20 has been cancelled. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Birsan, *et al.* (US 7,131,066) in view of LawBot (“LawBot: A Multiagent Assistant for Legal Research”), further in view of Zeleznikow, *et al.* (“Integrating the Document Object Model with Hyperlinks for Enhanced Topic Distillation and Information Extraction”). However, independent claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended herein to incorporate subject matter deemed allowable in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP1836USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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